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From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCTNOTICE INFORMING THE APPLICANT OF THE
COMMUNICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
APPLICATION TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICES

To:

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(PCT Rule 47.1(c), first sentence)

IPM/C

Eing.

Date of mailing (day/month/year)
25 March 2004 (25.03.2004)

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Ablage**IMPORTANT NOTICE**International application No.
PCT/EP2003/008816International filing date (day/month/year)
08 August 2003 (08.08.2003)Priority date (day/month/year)
27 August 2002 (27.08.2002)

Applicant

DAIMLERCHRYSLER AG et al

1. Notice is hereby given that the International Bureau has **communicated**, as provided in Article 20, the international application to the following designated Offices on the date indicated above as the date of mailing of this notice:

CN, EP, JP, KR, US

In accordance with Rule 47.1(c), third sentence, those Offices will accept the present notice as conclusive evidence that the communication of the international application has duly taken place on the date of mailing indicated above and no copy of the international application is required to be furnished by the applicant to the designated Office(s).

2. The following designated Offices have waived the requirement for such a communication at this time:

None

The communication will be made to those Offices only upon their request. Furthermore, those Offices do not require the applicant to furnish a copy of the international application (Rule 49.1(a-bis)).

3. Enclosed with this notice is a copy of the international application as published by the International Bureau on 25 March 2004 (25.03.2004) under No. WO 2004/024539

4. **TIME LIMITS for filing a demand for international preliminary examination and for entry into the national phase**

The applicable time limit for entering the national phase will, **subject to what is said in the following paragraph**, be **30 MONTHS** from the priority date, not only in respect of any elected Office if a demand for international preliminary examination is filed before the expiration of **19 months** from the priority date, but also in respect of any designated Office, in the absence of filing of such demand, where Article 22(1) as modified with effect from 1 April 2002 applies in respect of that designated Office. For further details, see *PCT Gazette* No. 44/2001 of 1 November 2001, pages 19926, 19932 and 19934, as well as the *PCT Newsletter*, October and November 2001 and February 2002 issues.

In practice, **time limits other than the 30-month time limit** will continue to apply, for various periods of time, in respect of certain designated or elected Offices. For **regular updates on the applicable time limits** (20, 21, 30 or 31 months, or other time limit), Office by Office, refer to the *PCT Gazette*, the *PCT Newsletter* and the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters, all available from WIPO's Internet site, at <http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/index.html>.

For filing a **demand for international preliminary examination**, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, Chapter IX. Only an applicant who is a national or resident of a PCT Contracting State which is bound by Chapter II has the right to file a demand for international preliminary examination (at present, all PCT Contracting States are bound by Chapter II).

It is the applicant's **sole responsibility** to monitor all these time limits.

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Body comprising a support structure made of assembled
partial modules

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The invention relates to a body for a motor vehicle of the type specified in the precharacterizing clause of patent claim 1.

10 A body of this type having a support structure assembled from large-size partial modules is already known from US-A-4 133 549, in which two partial modules which are connected to each other in each case comprise support sections and wall and/or floor sections
15 connected thereto, and in which support sections of the one partial module are assembled with associated support sections of the other partial module at abutment points to form a continuous support. In this case, the abutting surfaces of the assembled support
20 sections run obliquely with respect to the direction of extent of the support.

This oblique profile of the abutting surfaces produces a connection over a very large area in relation to the
25 cross section of the support, which already ensures a stable connection of the two parts to each other. In addition, the oblique profile of the abutting surfaces already permits manufacturing tolerances to be compensated for in a simple manner by it being possible
30 for the support sections to be adjusted within certain limits, both in the direction of extent of the support and in the vertical direction by the support sections being displaced with respect to each another - in the direction of the extent of the support.

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A body of this type, the support structure of which

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is composed of essentially four large-size partial modules, is likewise already known from DE 198 33 395 A1. For example, a front end module and a basic module of this support structure each comprise support
5 sections and wall and/or floor sections connected thereto.

When the partial modules are assembled, support sections of the one partial module are connected to
10 associated support sections of the partial module at abutment points.

The invention is based on the object of providing a body of the type mentioned at the beginning with which
15 a highly stressed connection between partial modules can be realized in an even more stable manner.

This object is achieved according to the invention by the features of the main claim.
20 Advantageous refinements of the invention can be gathered from the remaining claims.

In the case of the support structure according to the invention, the support sections are arranged at the
25 sides of a basic module and of a front end module, as a result of which, when they are joined together, lateral sills of the support structure are produced, these sills ensuring that the support structure is very highly stable in the connecting region of the two said
30 partial modules. It should also be considered as included that the oblique profile of the abutting surfaces can also be formed by a plurality of steps which follow on from one another.

35 Since upwardly protruding column sections are arranged at the front ends of the lateral longitudinal member

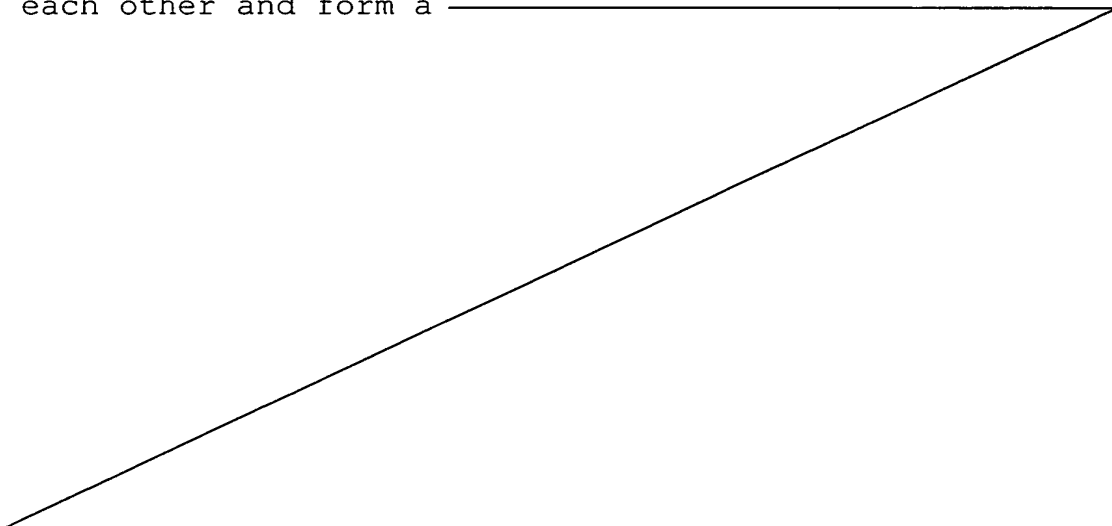
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sections of the basic module, which column sections are to be connected to upwardly protruding column sections of the lateral longitudinal member sections of the front end module, the overall result is an angled bonding of the column sections to the longitudinal member sections, thus making it possible, for example, for a particularly stiff supporting of a front end module on the basic module to be provided.

10 If the abutting surfaces of the support sections assigned to one another are of planar design, then a particularly simple configuration of the support sections in the region of the abutting surfaces is possible.

15 If the support sections are formed in each case from a box profile which is closed on the end side by the particular planar abutting surface, then, when they are joined together, a particularly firm connecting region is produced, with the support having a doubled, approximately 8-shaped box profile in cross section.

25 If the planar abutting surface and the respectively assigned box wall run at an acute angle with respect to each other and form a



Patent claims

1. A body for a motor vehicle, the support structure (10) of which is assembled from large-size partial modules (12, 34, 46, 48), two partial modules (12, 34) which are connected to each other in each case comprising support sections (16, 38) and wall and/or floor sections (14, 36) connected thereto, support sections (16) of the one partial module (12) being connected to associated support sections (38) of the other partial module (34) at abutment points (54, 56) and being assembled to form a continuous support (15), and abutting surfaces (54, 56) of the assembled support sections (16, 38) running obliquely with respect to the direction of extent of the support (15), characterized in that the support sections of the partial modules (12, 34, 46, 48) are lateral longitudinal member sections (16, 38), upwardly protruding column sections (18) being arranged at the front ends of the lateral longitudinal member sections (16) of the basic module (12), which column sections are to be connected to upwardly protruding column sections (42) of the lateral longitudinal member sections (38) of the front end module (34).

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2. The body as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the support sections (16, 38) of the two partial modules (12, 34), which support sections are assigned to one another, each have a planar abutting surface (54, 56).

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3. The body as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the support sections (16, 38) of the two partial modules (12, 34) each have a box profile which is closed on the end side by the planar abutting surface (54, 56).

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4. The body as claimed in claim 2 or 3, characterized in that the planar abutting surface (54, 56) encloses an acute angle (α) with the respectively assigned box wall of the support section (16, 38).

5. The body as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that a point (58) of the support section (38) is formed by the planar abutting surface (54, 56) and the respectively assigned box wall, a fastening tab (62) being provided at the front end of the point (58), via which tab the support sections (16, 38) which are assigned to one another are additionally connected.

6. The body as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the lateral longitudinal members (15) bound a body floor (14), a front end region (36) of the body floor (14) belonging to the front end module (34) and extending rearwards over a considerable length region of the basic module (12) between the lateral longitudinal member sections (16).

7. The body as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that that end region (36) of the body floor (14) which belongs to the front end module (34) is connected in an overlapping manner to that region of the body floor (14) which belongs to the basic module (12).

8. The body as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the upwardly protruding column sections (18, 42) of the front end module (34) and of the basic module (12) can be connected to form the front wall columns (20).